



STIRRING STORIES OF REAL ROMANCE!



NO 28
AUG.

Lovelorn

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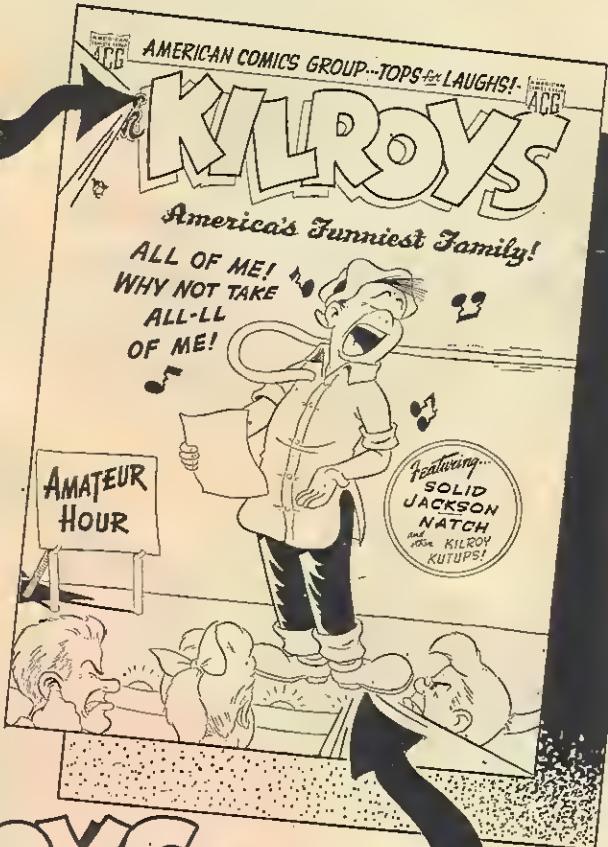
KILROY *is* HERE!

IN A SENSATIONAL SMASH COMICS MAGAZINE THAT'S TURNED THE TOWN TOPSY-TURVY!

the KILROYS

HOT OFF THE PRESS AND A BOMBSHELL OF BELLY-LAFFS --- SO BUY YOUR COPY NOW! LATCH ON TO "NATCH", THE TERRIFIC TEEN-AGER! MEET JUDY, HIS LITTLE LOVIN' OVEN "JACKSON", THE DOWNBEAT ATOM BOMB---AND MOM AND POP KILROY, IN PERSON!

THEY'RE ALL ON HAND FOR GIGGLES! SO IF YOU WANT TO SAY KILROY WAS HERE, AND MEAN IT,



Read
the

KILROYS

America's Funniest Family!

10¢

ON ALL STANDS

and

YOU'D BETTER HURRY!

I CARRIED A TORCH

I'D SKY-ROCKETED FROM OBSCURITY TO INTERNATIONAL FAME IN A FEW SHORT YEARS! MISERABLE YEARS---FOR EACH DAY WAS FILLED WITH THE ACRID TASTE OF LONELINESS AND THE BITTER MEMORY OF MY LOVER'S DECEIT! HOW JOYFULLY I WOULD HAVE RENOUNCED EVERYTHING---FAME, GLAMOUR, NOTORIETY---IF ONLY TO RECAPTURE FOR A MOMENT THE RAPTURE I HAD KNOWN!



YES, I WAS A CELEBRITY... ENVIED
---ADMired---AT THE PINNACLE OF MY
SUCCESS...

THAT'S LINDA
CARLYLE...
WOW, WHAT A
KNOCKOUT!

WHY, SHE'S EVEN
MORE BEAUTIFUL
IN PERSON
THAN ON THE
SCREEN!

SO COME TO NEW YORK WITH MY
BUSINESS MANAGER, ALAN CLARK,
TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE NEW
SHOW I WAS TO STAR IN! I SHOULD
HAVE BEEN HAPPY. BUT...

I'M SO BORED --- SUCCESS MEANS
NOTHING TO ME ANYMORE! IT'S
BECOME A DREARY ROUTINE ---AND
IT WILL ALWAYS BE THIS WAY,
BECAUSE I'M LONELY! AND I
KNOW THAT LOVE WILL NEVER
COME TO ME ... AGAIN!

SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A SHARP
PANG INSIDE ME, AS I NOTICED A
FAMILIAR FORM NEARBY! AS HIS FACE
TURNED SLIGHTLY, MY HEART BEGAN TO
THROB MADLY...

IT---IT'S STAN! STAN BOLTON!
HOW I HATE HIM! BUT---BUT
WHY DOES HIS MERE PRESENCE
UNSETTLE ME, SET MY BLOOD
RACING---EVEN AFTER ALL
THESE YEARS?



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I THOUGHT I'D GOTTEN OVER STAN BOLTON... I MUST HAVE TOLD MYSELF A THOUSAND TIMES THAT WHAT I'D FELT FOR HIM COULDN'T HAVE BEEN REAL! I'D BEEN TOO YOUNG TO KNOW TRUE LOVE FROM A CHEAP IMITATION---FOR HOW COULD I HAVE LOVED ANYONE SO TREACHEROUS---WHOSE KISSES WERE ALL LIES AND DECEIT? BUT MY MIND REFUSED TO LET GO OF HIM---AND I FOUND MYSELF THINKING BACK... BACK... BACK...

IT HAD BEGUN INAUSPICIOUSLY---I DIDN'T KNOW ANYBODY AT COLLEGE... AND I WAS TO LEARN QUICKLY THE PAIN OF NOT BELONGING...

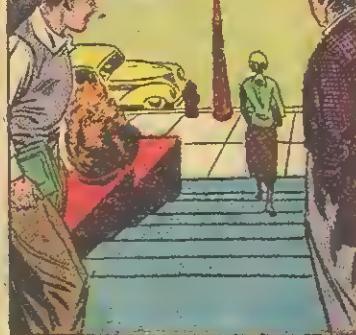
MY LONELINESS AT SCHOOL WAS INTENSIFIED BY SHYNESS! AT FIRST, BOYS WERE NICE TO ME---BUT I MET THEM AWKWARDLY---BASHFULLY! I SOON GOT A REPUTATION FOR BEING COLD AND UNFRIENDLY...

HI, JOAN... GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK!

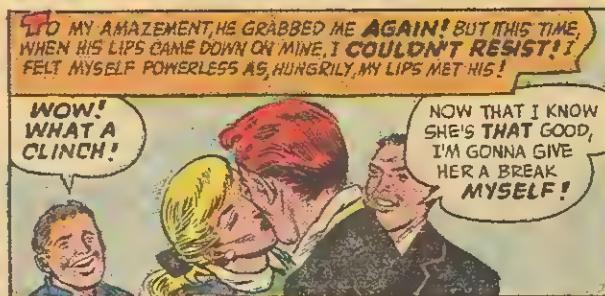
HEY, LAURA... HOW YA BEEN? CAN I TAKE YOUR STUFF TO THE SORORITY HOUSE?

THERE GOES MISS SNOOTY OF STATE U!

YEAH... YOU'D THINK SHE WAS THE QUEEN OF SHEBA!



SOON I BECAME A NUMBER ONE TARGET FOR CAMPUS PRANKS! DURING FRATERNITY RUSH WEEK...



**YOU... YOU'RE DON'T BE SORE... I
A FINE ONE HAD TO DO THAT!
TO TALK ABOUT IT WAS ONE OF MY
MANHOURS! FRATERNITY INITIATION
STUNTS-- BECAUSE
EVERYBODY CONSIDERED
YOU THE COLDEST GIRL ON
THE CAMPUS! NOW THAT I'VE
PROVEN NOW **WRONG**
THEY ARE, HOW ABOUT
FORGIVING ME-- AND
BEING PALS?**

I WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO MAKE
A FRIEND --ESPECIALLY **STAN BOLTON**!
BEFORE I KNEW IT, WE
WERE IN THE COLLEGE JUKE JOINT!
THERE I LEARNED HOW POPULAR HE
WAS WITH OTHER GIRLS--

STAN WAS DIRECTOR OF STUDENT
SHOWS, AND STAR PITCHER OF THE
BASEBALL TEAM! I BEGAN FEELING
THAT I COULDNT POSSIBLY HOLD
HIS INTEREST, AWKWARD AND
BACKWARD AS I WAS...



ON, STAN... I'VE BEEN
LOOKING ALL OVER
FOR YOU! CAN I TRY
OUT FOR THE FRESH-
MAN SHOW?

PLEASE, STAN...
YOU PROMISED
ME AN
AUDITION
FIRST!



YOU SEE, I WAS BROUGHT UP
ON A SMALL FARM, MILES
AND MILES FROM NOWHERE!
I NEVER HAD THE AD-
VANTAGES OF OTHER
GIRLS!

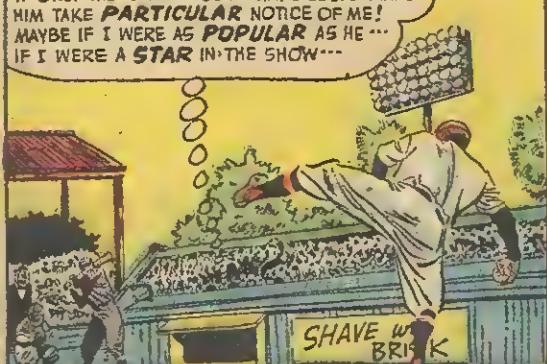
MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU LOOK
SO FRESH AND WHOLESOME! WELL,
I'M GOING TO BRING YOU UP
TO DATE! SHOW UP IN THE GYM AT
TEN TOMORROW MORNING AND
WE'LL START DANCING
LESSONS!

THOSE WERE HAPPY HOURS -- EACH MORNING IN THE
GYM! BUT THEY WERE PRACTICALLY THE ONLY HOURS
I EVER SAW STAN -- SO BUSY WAS HE WITH OTHER
ACTIVITIES!



DESPITE STAN'S ENCOURAGEMENT, I NEVER FELT THAT I
WAS ANY MORE TO HIM THAN JUST ANOTHER GIRL!
DURING GAMES, I WOULD WATCH HIM HUNGRILY--HOPING--

IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY I COULD MAKE
HIM TAKE PARTICULAR NOTICE OF ME!
MAYBE IF I WERE AS POPULAR AS HE ...
IF I WERE A STAR IN THE SHOW...



I'D ALWAYS HAD A GOOD SINGING VOICE, AND NOW I
BEGAN TO TAKE LESSONS IN EARNEST -- ANYTHING
TO WIN HIS ATTENTION! BUT WHEN I TRIED FOR A PART IN
THE PLAY...

YOU SING AND DANCE FINE,
LINDA -- BUT FRANKLY, YOU
DON'T KNOW THE FIRST
THING ABOUT ACTING!
YOUR PART CALLS FOR A
KISS AND YOU HAVEN'T
THE FAIREST IDEA
HOW IT'S DONE!
HERE, LET ME
SHOW YOU!



ONCE MORE, THE FEEL OF HIS LIPS--BUT NOW IT WAS DIFFERENT! A SURGE OF RAPTURE KINDED MY HEART INTO BLAZING LOVE! AND---WONDER OF WONDERS---I SENSED THE SAME RESPONSE IN HIM!

LINDA... DARLING!
I NEVER DREAM...

OH, STAN! HOLD
ME... HOLO ME
TIGHT!

AFTER THAT---WE WERE INSEPARABLE! THE HAPPY COLLEGE YEARS FLEW BY---ALL TOO SWIFTLY! THEN, AS SENIORS, I WORE HIS FRATERNITY PIN---AND WE WERE ENGAGED!



THE LAST GREAT COLLEGE MOMENT---THE NIGHT OF THE SENIOR SHOW! OH, WHAT A HAPPY MEMORY! BY THEN I HAD THE LEAD, AND STAN DIRECTED! WHEN IT WAS OVER, I STEPPED BETWEEN THE CURTAINS---THRILLED BEYOND WORDS AT MY FIRST SUCCESS...



OH, STAN---I'M SO HAPPY!
AND IT'S ALL YOUR DOING
---I'D NEVER BE ANYTHING WITHOUT YOU!

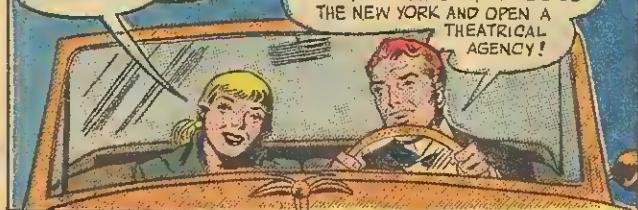
DON'T BE SILLY, HONEY---IT'S YOUR TALENT THAT COUNTS!



LATER, AS WE DROVE THROUGH THE STAR-STUDDED NIGHT...

OH, DARLING---EVERYTHING IS TOO WONDERFUL TO BE TRUE! JUST THINK, WE CAN GET MARRIED **RIGHT AWAY!**

WAIT A MINUTE, HONEY---YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! MR. JENKS OFFERED **YOU** A CONTRACT---NOT ME! AND YOU'RE GOING TO **TAKE IT**, WHILE I GO THE NEW YORK AND OPEN A THEATRICAL AGENCY!



I WAS HORRIFIED---IT ALMOST SEEMED THAT STAN **WANTED** US TO BE SEPARATED! WHAT DID SUCCESS MATTER IF I LOST HIM... AND IF HE **TRULY LOVED** ME HE WOULDN'T HAVE **WANTED** ME TO GO! ANGRILY, I TURNED...

BUT STAN---THAT WAY, WE WOULDN'T SEE EACH OTHER FOR AGES! I COULDN'T STAND THAT!

I FEEL THE SAME WAY, DARLING---BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED! I WANT YOU TO HAVE THE SUCCESS YOU **DESERVE**! WE CAN WAIT---AND BE MARRIED LATER!



IT WAS A LONG, BITTER ARGUMENT---BUT I WON!

PLEASE, STAN---CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND? I LOVE YOU! NOTHING COULD MAKE ME LEAVE YOU!

YES, DARLING---I DO UNDERSTAND! COME HERE, YOU WONDERFUL, ADORABLE ANGEL!

SO IT WAS DECIDED---WE WOULD GO TO NEW YORK TOGETHER! BUT NEXT MORNING, AS I HURRIED TO MEET HIM...

GOLLY, WHAT A SUCKER STAN IS MAKING OF LINDA! DID YOU HEAR HIM BOASTING ABOUT THE WAY HE GOT HER TO TURN DOWN THE TERRIFIC CONTRACT?

SURE, AND WHAT MORE...HE CLAIMS HE'S GOING TO USE HER LOOKS AND TALENT FOR NOTHING WHEN HE SETS UP HIS OWN AGENCY! SHE'S JUST A MEAL TICKET TO HIM!

ICouldn't believe it---not till I heard it from his own lips! Horrified, I confronted him...

Hi, Darling! Why so excited?

Oh, Stan---I just heard something horrible! They say you tricked me---that you never really loved me! But they're lying---I know they are! Tell me, Stan---tell me it isn't so!

BREATHLESS, I WAITED FOR A DENIAL---BUT THERE WAS ONLY A SHAMEFACED LOOK IN HIS EYES! SUDDENLY I FELT A TERRIBLE WAVE OF HATRED SWEEP OVER ME...

TH---THEN IT'S TRUE! YOU NEVER LOVED ME---YOU'VE JUST BEEN USING ME FOR YOUR OWN SELFISH ENDS! EVEN YOUR KISSES---EVERYTHING WAS A GREAT LIE! YOU DON'T HAVE AN HONEST BONE IN YOU, STAN BOLTON---I HATE YOU---I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN!

MY OUTBURST OVER, I WHIRLED, WALKED AWAY---RESOLVED TO PUT HIM COMPLETELY FROM MY THOUGHTS! A NEW LIFE, A NEW CAREER WAS WAITING FOR ME!

DESPERATELY, I THREW MYSELF INTO MY WORK---HOPING TO FORGET! SUCCESS CAME SWIFTLY! BUT I FACED THE FUTURE FORLORN, WITH THE CERTAINTY THAT I WOULD NEVER LOVE AGAIN---FOR I KNEW THAT I COULD NEVER TRUST A MAN AGAIN!

WHAT A VOICE! THE GIRL'S A NATURAL!

SHE SINGS A TORCH SONG AS IF SHE REALLY MEANS IT!

VES, WHENEVER I SANG A TORCH SONG---I DID MEAN IT! FOR I HAD NEVER PUT STAN TOTALLY FROM MY MIND---AND WHEN SCREEN LOVERS EMBRACED ME---IT SUMMONED UP THE MEMORY OF ANOTHER---FAITHLESS, DECEITFUL!

THAT CARLYLE GAL IS GREAT! GOLLY, SHE SURE ACTS TRUE TO LIFE!

AND SO IT WAS THAT, AFTER THE LONELY NIGHT, I CAUGHT MY NEXT GLIMPSE OF STAN--IN A NEW YORK NIGHT CLUB! AND WHY DID THE VERY SIGHT OF HIM SET MY HEART RACING? DIDN'T I...HATE HIM?

LINDA...WHAT'S WRONG? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN LISTENING! I JUST SAID THAT THE DIRECTOR OF YOUR COMING SHOW IS SITTING RIGHT OVER THERE--
STAN BOLTON!
I'LL HAVE HIM COME OVER TO MEET YOU!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

STAN BOLTON...TO DIRECT MY FIRST NEW YORK SHOW? BEFORE I'D GATHERED MY WITS...

I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET LYNDY CARLYLE. STAN--YOU'LL BE SEEING A LOT OF HER THESE NEXT FEW WEEKS!

THAT WON'T BE HARD TO TAKE! HOW DO YOU DO, MISS CARLYLE?

I...I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE TO BE MY DIRECTOR!

YOU'RE LOOKING WONDERFUL, LINDA--I'D MEANT TO WRITE YOU, FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE, AND CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR SUCCESS! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME--AND I WAS HOPEFUL--WELL, THAT WE MIGHT BURY THE HATCHET!

NO, NO--I MUSTN'T FORGIVE AND FORGET! NOT WHEN HE'S GOT THE POWER TO MAKE ME FEEL THIS WAY--TO HURT ME AGAIN!

BUT AS I HEARD HIS VOICE WHISPERING IN MY EAR, I THOUGHT--WHY NOT? A LOT OF TIME HAS PASSED--PERHAPS STAN HAD CHANGED!

OUR WORK THREW US TOGETHER CONSTANTLY--AND AS TIME PASSED, MY CONFIDENCE IN STAN WAS RESTORED! AND I FOUND HIM MORE THRILLINGLY EXCITING THAN EVER!

WHAT DO YOU SAY, LINDA?

ALL RIGHT, STAN
...WE'LL...LET BYGONES BE BYGONES!

YE, THE SCARS OF THE PAST SEEMED TO VANISH! ONE NIGHT, WHEN WE HAD WORKED VERY LATE TOGETHER OVER A SCRIPT--

LINDA, EVER SINCE WE PARTED, THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANY OTHER GIRL IN MY LIFE--AND THERE NEVER COULD BE! DO YOU...COULD YOU EVER FEEL ANYTHING FOR ME AGAIN?

OH, STAN, DARLING
--I'VE NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU...NEVER!

THES LONGING OF THE YEARS BURST FROM MY HEART! ARDENTLY OUR LIPS MET--AND I KNEW THE BLISS OF BELONGING ONCE MORE TO THE MAN I HAD ALWAYS ADORED!

DARLING, WE'LL BE MARRIED
RIGHT AFTER THE SHOW!
THEN WE'LL GO OFF ON
A TRIP AROUND THE
WORLD--JUST THE
TWO OF US!

JUST THE TWO OF US--FOREVER--
ALWAYS!

"THE BUSY, RAPTUROUS WEEKS FLEW BY... AND THEN... OPENING NIGHT! JUST BEFORE CURTAIN TIME, MR. JENKS, THE TALENT SCOUT WHO DISCOVERED ME, DASHED INTO MY DRESSING ROOM..."

"YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, LINDA... BUT YOU'RE GOING FURTHER! NOW, GO OUT THERE AND STRETCH THEM IN THE AISLES!"



"AND I DID! I COULD FEEL THE APPROVAL OF THE AUDIENCE AS I SANG! THE NOTES ROSE FROM MY HAPPY THROAT... FOR WASN'T STAN, MY OWN DARLING STAN, THERE IN THE WINGS?"



"DURING INTERMISSION..."

"YOU WERE GREAT, LINDA!
THE SHOW IS A SMASH HIT
...SURE TO RUN FOR A
YEAR! AND THE ROAD
SHOW WILL GO FOR
SEVERAL MORE!"

"W-WHAT?
Y-YEARS?"



"YOU TALK OF YEARS?
THEN HOW COULD YOU MEAN
WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT US
GETTING MARRIED AND GO-
ING ON A TRIP AROUND THE
WORLD? ALL THE TIME YOU
PUT THE SUCCESS OF THIS
SHOW BEFORE EVERY-
THING... BEFORE ME
...BEFORE OUR
HAPPINESS. YOU'RE
THE SAME AS YOU
ALWAYS WERE...
CHEAP...
DISHONEST!"



"YOU NEVER MEAN WHAT YOU SAY!
ALL YOU THINK ABOUT IS YOUR-
SELF! YOU'RE SELFISH...
EGOTISTICAL! YOU NEVER
LOVED ME--I SEE THAT
CLEARLY NOW! I'M JUST
MONEY IN THE BANK TO
YOU!"

"HOLD ON, HONEY...
YOU'VE GOT THIS ALL
WRONG! EVERY-
THING!"

"SECOND ACT
CURTAIN GO-
ING UP, MISS
CARLYLE!"



"WAIT... THIS IS MORE
IMPORTANT! YOU'RE
WRONG ABOUT ME--
TERRIBLY WRONG... AND
YOU ALWAYS WERE! YOU
MUST GIVE ME A CHANCE
TO EXPLAIN!"

"NO, DON'T TOUCH ME...
I NEVER WANT YOU TO TOUCH
ME AGAIN! THERE'S NOTHING
YOU COULD SAY WHICH I'D
EVER BELIEVE AGAIN! GET
OUT... LEAVE ME
ALONE!"



**YES, THE SHOW HAD TO GO ON... EVEN
THOUGH MY HEART WAS BREAKING! WHAT
DID IT ALL MATTER TO ME NOW? AND THE
WORDS I SANG, WORDS OF L'INDY LOVE...
HOW THEY TWISTED THE KNIFE INSIDE...**

**NO LONGER SHALL WE
BE APART...
I HAVE HIS LOVE...
HE HAS MY HEART... ✓**

**AND WHAT WAS THE TUMULTUOUS
APPLAUSE OF THE PACKED HOUSE BUT
THE HOLLOW MOCKERY OF THE EMPTY-
NESS IN MY HEART? I STOOD THERE AT
THE END... EXHAUSTED WITH AN ORDEAL
... BUT STILL SMILING... STILL CARRY-
ING ON... AS A STAR SHOULD!**



**WHAT? SOMEBODY'S BEEN KIDDING YOU, LINDA! STAN
HAS NEVER THOUGHT OF ANYBODY BUT YOU! WHAT YOU
THINK WAS HIS DECEIT IN COLLEGE WAS A FRAMEUP!
HE KNEW YOU WOULDN'T ACCEPT MY CONTRACT, SO HE
SPREAD THAT PHONEY STORY ABOUT WANTING TO CASH
IN ON YOU IN NEW YORK! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
HE'S BEEN CARRYING A TORCH FOR YEARS! WHY,
EVEN NOW HE'S GOT AN UNDERSTUDY READY TO
TAKE OVER YOUR PART SO THAT YOU TWO CAN
HAVE THAT HONEYMOON!**

**YOU---YOU
MEAN
THAT---**



**SLOWLY, THE AMAZING WORDS PENETRATED! SOMEHOW, I KNEW
THAT EVERYTHING I'D HEARD WAS TRUE... AND I DASHED WILDLY TO
STAN'S OFFICE TO BEG HIS FORGIVENESS! BUT...**

**STAN? HE'S GONE...
LEFT ABOUT A HALF HOUR
AGO... FOR GOOD!
HE SIGNED OVER HIS
RIGHTS TO THE SHOW
TO YOU... GIVING UP
A FORTUNE! HERE,
HE LEFT THIS LETTER
FOR YOU!**

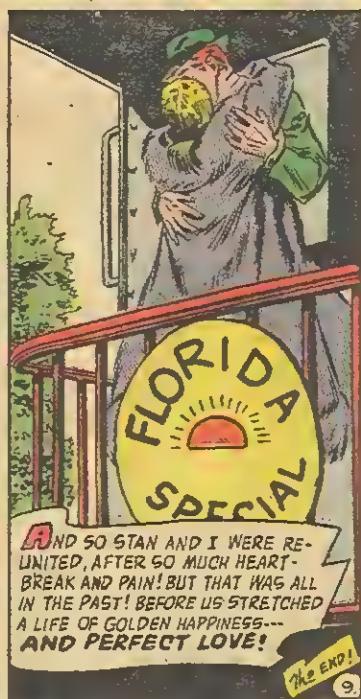
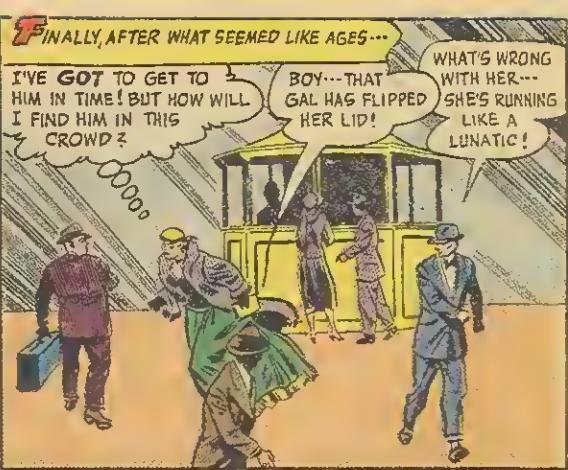


**MY HANDS TREMBLED AS I READ... AND THE WORDS TORTURED
ME! HE WAS GOING AWAY, SO THAT WE WOULD NEVER CAUSE EACH
OTHER ANY MORE PAIN, AND BECAUSE HE COULDN'T BEAR TO BE NEAR
ME, KNOWING THAT I COULD NEVER TRUST HIM!**

**OH, NO... HE'S WRONG!
WHERE IS HE? I MUST FIND
HIM!**

**HE'LL BE LEAVING ON THE
FLORIDA SPECIAL FROM PENNSYLVANIA
STATION! BUT YOU'D
BETTER HURRY---THE TRAIN
WILL BE PULLING OUT
SOON!**





NOT INTERESTED!

AT THE MOMENT, Binnie was behaving in a contradictory fashion! She stood at the mirror, applying her lipstick with meticulous care and attention, following every curve of her full, shapely lips. Then, although her hair already gleamed like light-reflecting, honey satin, she brushed it again, curling out the little tendrils at the nape of her neck.

And all the time, she was thinking, "The way to act is simple! Just...not interested! Once a man gets the idea that a girl cares at all, he's the one that's hard to get! I simply won't let him see that I have any interest in him! I'll let him think that it doesn't matter if I never see him again! That will make him interested...more anxious!"

She took off the earrings she was wearing, tried another pair, and then went back to the first pair. For a girl who wasn't going to show her interest in a man, Binnie was certainly going to a lot of trouble. But that was behind the scenes. "What he doesn't know won't hurt him!" she thought.

This was her seventh date with Joe, and Binnie remembered each succeeding date with a heightening of her pulse beat. Joe was the kind of guy girls dreamed about and sometimes saw on the movie screen, but never met! Except for some rare, lucky stroke of fate!

Downstairs the doorbell rang. Binnie noted that it was exactly half-past eight, and that Joe was on time. "But I won't be!" she thought, picking up a magazine and flipping through it. "I'll let him wait five or ten minutes! Why come rushing down the steps the minute he appears?"

Though it was hard to do, Binnie sat and waited as the clock hand moved forward five minutes. Then, summoning an air of polite, but casual,

interest, she started down the steps towards Joe.

With every step, her heart beat faster, but she forced herself to a calm, slow walk. Why let him think she was so eager?

Half-way down the staircase, Binnie stopped short. There was Joe, in the living room, but he wasn't gazing up, expectantly, waiting for her with the excitement she had anticipated. He was seated in dad's easy chair, bent over double, as though in great pain. He wasn't even aware of her!

"Joe!" All Binnie's casual detachment vanished as she saw him. "Joe, darling! Are you all right? What's wrong? Please, speak to me!"

She had run down the rest of the steps without even thinking of the impression she was making, and her arms went around him, tenderly, her face was close to his as she asked him, over and over, what was wrong!

And suddenly, Joe's arms were around her, holding her in a firm, decided circle of love, and his lips were on hers, kissing her again and again! When he released her, for an instant, he smiled and said, "I didn't think you cared, darling, until you showed me how much!"

"I thought...you seemed to be in pain...I mean..." How could Binnie ever regain her cool poise, with her hair mussed, her lips tingling with the feel of his kisses?

"Looking for a cuff-link," Joe explained. "Must be under the couch!"

"I'll see," Binnie started to search for it, but Joe caught her wrist and pulled her back. "I...guess I won't bother," Binnie said weakly. "Who cares about cuff-links...at a time like this?"

GHOSTLY LOVER



YOU'RE LOOKING AT A GUY WHO'S SOMETIMES BEEN CALLED "THE SCOURGE OF THE RACKETS!"

I'VE HAD MY SHARE OF SCOOPS, AND IN THE PROCESS I'VE BEEN SHOT, MAULED AND OTHERWISE MANHANDLED! BUT AT THE TIME THIS STORY BEGINS, I'D RATHER HAVE FACED

MURDER INC.
SINGLE-HANDED THAN RISK A BRUSHOFF FROM THE GIRL I LOVED,
KAY ALLEN!

HERE IT IS, READER—THE STRANGEST, HEART-SHAKINGEST ROMANCE YOU'VE EVER READ!

Kay EDITED THE "ADVICE TO THE LOVELORN" COLUMN FOR OUR NEWSPAPER! SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT, AND HALF THE MEN IN THE OFFICE WERE NUTS ABOUT HER! BUT SHE NEVER GAVE ANY OF THEM A TUMBLE! DIDN'T BELIEVE IN LOVE, SHE SAID--BUT ON THE SLY--

--AND SOON YOU WILL MEET A WONDERFUL MAN -- HANDSOME, STRONG, FEARLESS!

YOU'VE TOLD ME THAT MANY TIMES! BUT WHEN WILL I MEET HIM--WHEN?

YES, KAY WAS SUPERSTITIOUS -- WOULDN'T GO OUT WITH A GUY IF HE WAS BORN UNDER THE WRONG SIGN OF THE ZODIAC! BUT WHENEVER SHE PASSED THROUGH THE CITY ROOM, IT WAS LIKE RUNNING A GAUNTLET OF HOWLING WOLVES--

HIYA,
BEAUTIFUL!
WHEN ARE YOU
GOING TO GIVE ONE
OF US A
BREAK?

WHILE THE OTHERS HOWLED, I ATE MY HEART OUT IN SILENCE!

YELLOW--THAT'S WHAT I AM! I'M IN LOVE WITH KAY --SO I SHOULD HAVE THE COURAGE TO TELL HER SO--

BUT I DON'T!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, DON
--YOU LOOK LIKE A FRIEND IN NEED!



I JUST HAD TO TALK TO SOMEONE ABOUT IT!
BEFORE I KNEW IT--I'D BLURTED OUT THE
WHOLE TALE!

I'M IN LOVE WITH KAY-- PROBABLY, SON-- SHE'S
BUT SHE SCARES BRUSHED OFF EVERY-
ME WITH THAT BODY ELSE IN THE OFFICE!
ALOOFNESS OF BUT KAY'S A FUNNY
HERS! I KNOW I'D GIRL-- YOU NEVER
GET THE DEEP FREEZE KNOW HOW SHE'LL
IF I EVEN ASKED HER, REACT! YOU NEED AN
FOR A DATE! UNUSUAL APPROACH--
WAIT-- I'VE GOT IT!

YEAH-- HE HAD IT,
ALL RIGHT! THE
PLAN WAS TO WRITE
A LETTER TO KAY'S
COLUMN UNDER AN
ASSUMED NAME,
EXPLAINING MY
PROBLEM AND
ASKING HER ADVICE,
NAMELY-- "WHAT'S A
GUY SUPPOSED
TO DO WHEN HE'S
IN LOVE WITH A GIRL
WHO DOESN'T
KNOW HE'S
ALIVE?"

A COUPLE OF DAYS
LATER, AFTER I'D
PICKED UP HER
REPLY IN
THE POST
OFFICE
BOX NUMBER
I'D GIVEN --

WELL? DON'T
KEEP ME IN
SUSPENSE!
WHAT DID
SHE SAY?

PLENTY!--AND
IT'S ALL
WORTHLESS!
HERE--READ
IT FOR
YOURSELF!

LET'S SEE NOW -- "YOUR PROBLEM IS SIMPLE IF YOU
REALLY LOVE THE GIRL! REMEMBER, FAINT HEART
NEVER WON FAIR LADY! MARCH UP TO HER,
TAKE HER IN YOUR ARMS, KISS HER
ARDENTLY, AND TELL HER EXACTLY
HOW YOU FEEL!" -- DON,
THIS IS GREAT! TAKE
HER ADVICE!

YOU OUTTA
YOUR MIND,
CHIEF?

WHILE THE CHIEF RAGED AND CALLED ME
GUTLESS, NEITHER OF US KNEW WHAT WAS
GOING ON IN KAY'S OFFICE!

ALL THESE LOVE LETTERS -- WHY DOESN'T
ANYTHING EVER HAPPEN TO ME? I'M GETTING
BORED STAYING HOME NIGHTS AND READING
BOOKS! BUT ALL THE FELLOWS IN THIS
OFFICE ARE TOO FRESH, EXCEPT FOR THAT
DON O'BRIEN -- HE'S THE ONLY REAL
GENTLEMAN AROUND! HE'D NEVER
THINK OF FLIRTING SO SHAMEFULLY--
BUT SOMETIMES I WISH HE WERE
A BIT LESS SHY!

IN I MARCHED, DETERMINED TO
HAVE MY SAY AT LAST--FOR
BETTER -- OR WORSE!

MISS ALLEN ... ER, THAT IS...
KAY! I THINK YOU'RE THE
MOST WONDERFUL GIRL IN
THE WORLD! I'M IN
LOVE WITH YOU!

W-WHAT?

I'D SAID IT -- AND THEN MY HEART
TOOK OVER! I CRUSHED MY LIPS
DOWN ON HERS AS SHE STRUGGLED.
BUT THEN SHE BEGAN TO RESPOND
-- A LITTLE-- THEN MORE -- AND
MORE!

BUT JUST WHEN I THOUGHT THE
FATES WERE SMILING ON ME,
SHE BROKE AWAY FIERCELY--

OF ALL THE INCREDIBLE
NERVE! GET OUT OF MY
OFFICE! I'LL GET EVEN
WITH YOU FOR THIS--
JUST WAIT!

SLAP!

I GOT OUT
OF HER
OFFICE--
FAST!
THEN I MADE
UP MY
MIND--
TO QUIT!
I WOULN'T
TORTURE
MYSELF
WITH
BEING
AROUND
HER ALL
THE TIME
WITHOUT
HAVING
A
CHANCE!





WHEN
I BROKE
TO THE
SURFACE
I WAS
UNDER
THE PIER!
QUICKLY,
I SWAM
FOR THE
DOCK
LADDER
AND
SCURRIED
UP!
BUT WHEN
I
REACHED
THE
TOP--



MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE OFFICE --

S-SO THAT'S HOW IT HAPPENED! OH, I WISH IT HAD BEEN ME! OH, DON, DON -- WHAT HAVE I DONE?

NOW, MISS ALLEN, YOU MUST GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF! HERE -- THIS SEDATIVE WILL HELP YOU SLEEP -- GO HOME AND GET TO BED!

KAY WENT HOME TO REST -- BUT I HAD OTHER PLANS! WHEN IT WAS LATE ENOUGH, I MADE MY WAY STEALTHILY TO HER APARTMENT, ENTERED A WINDOW AND --

LOOK AT THAT HEARTLESS MONSTER, SLEEPING LIKE A BABY! WELL, THIS SHEET AND A COUPLE OF EERIE MOANS SHOULD ROUSE HER QUICKLY ENOUGH!



NO-NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND -- I DIDN'T MEAN TO HARM YOU -- I -- LOVED YOU! OH, MY POOR, POOR DARLING, CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?

BY GEORGE, THIS IS A NEW TWIST! BUT MAYBE SHE IS TELLING THE TRUTH -- SHE LOOKS SO PATHETIC! WELL, THERE'S ONE SURE WAY TO FIND OUT!

KAY'S FRIGHT WASN'T HARD TO UNDERSTAND -- AFTER ALL, HOW MANY GIRLS HAVE BEEN KISSED BY A GHOST? I FELT HER TREMBLE -- THEN RESPOND WITH A FEVER THAT AMAZED ME!

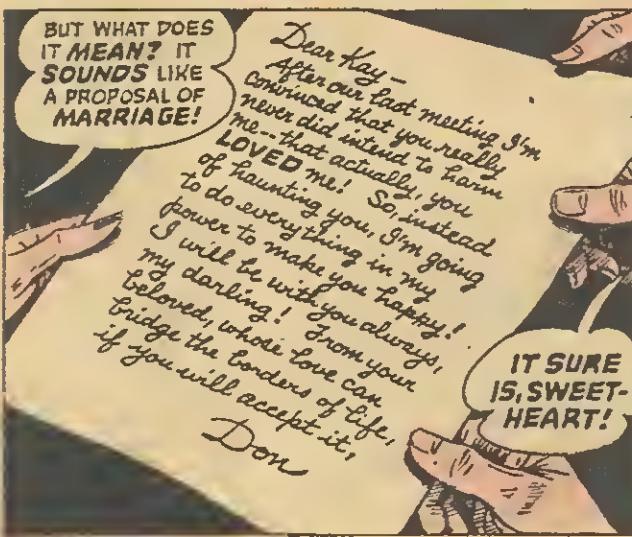
WONDER OF WONDERS, SHE DID LOVE ME -- I WAS SURE OF THAT NOW! BUT I HADN'T FINISHED WITH MY LITTLE GAME YET -- NOT BY A LONG SHOT!



HE'S -- LEAVING! MAYBE I'M DREAMING -- BUT NO, I KNOW THIS IS REAL! OH, DON, COME BACK! COME BACK!



I WAS COMING BACK, ALL RIGHT, BUT FIRST I HAD OTHER THINGS TO DO! I HAD TO GET IN TOUCH WITH EVERYBODY IN THE OFFICE, NEARLY SCARING THEM OUT OF THEIR WITS! BUT BY THE NEXT MORNING, EVERYTHING WAS PREPARED TO CARRY OUT MY PLAN! KAY CAME IN LATE, RED-EYED FROM WEEPING, AND AFTER SHE'D DISAPPEARED INTO HER OFFICE...



"MEN NEVER MAKE PASSES AT GIRLS WHO WEAR GLASSES," runs the old refrain -- and I found out, to my anguish, that in my case the adage was only too true! But I also learned something more important -- that beauty isn't only skin deep -- that no matter what you're like, somewhere you'll find someone who'll look at you through ...

Eyes of Romance



"I, LOIS FARWELL, WAS ONE OF THOSE WHO HAD TO WEAR GLASSES FROM CHILDHOOD ON -- AND I HATED THEM FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!"

LOOKIT, FOUR-EYES!
HEY, FOUR-EYES!

MOMMY--MAKE
THEM STOP!

"EVEN AN AMATEUR PSYCHOLOGIST COULD HAVE PREDICTED THAT I'D GROW UP SHY AND RETIRING -- AND I SURE DID! BY THE TIME I GOT TO HIGH SCHOOL, I'D DEVELOPED A BEAUT OF AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX -- AND BECAME THE CLASS SHRINKING VIOLET!"

GOSH, CAN'T THEY SEE I'M JUST LIKE SHE IS-- UNDER THESE G-GLASSES? BUT I GUESS BOYS AREN'T FOR ME!



"BRAVELY, I ATTENDED THE SCHOOL DANCES--BUT WITH THE WALLFLOWERS! FINALLY, MY PRIDE COULD TAKE NO MORE!"

"AS USUAL, NO ONE'S ASKED ME TO DANCE ALL EVENING! I--I'LL NEVER HUMILIATE MYSELF BY COMING HERE AGAIN!"



"SINCE REAL-LIFE ROMANCES WERE BARRED TO ME, I TURNED TO THE WORLD OF MAKE-BELIEVE! I FOUND THAT GIRLS WHO WORE GLASSES WERE A COMMON THEME IN MAGAZINE STORIES AND TELEVISION DRAMAS..."

"HERE...LET ME SEE HOW YOU LOOK WITHOUT THOSE GLASSES!"



"WHY, YOU...
YOU'RE
BEAUTIFUL!"

"THEN I'LL
NEVER WEAR
THEM AGAIN!"



"WHAT A FRAUD! IF SHE DIDN'T NEED THE GLASSES, WHY DID SHE WEAR THEM IN THE FIRST PLACE--AND IF SHE DOES NEED THEM, HOW WILL SHE GET ALONG WITHOUT THEM? IF I TRIED DOING THAT, I'D PRACTICALLY NEED A SEEING-EYE DOG TO LEAD ME AROUND!"



"THE DATELESS WEEKS AND MONTHS FLEW BY--AND MY LONELINESS GREW!"

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO FIND ROMANCE--I'M SICK OF GOING ON THIS WAY! MAYBE IT'S CRAZY, BUT I'M GOING TO TRY WHAT THAT GAL ON THE TV SHOW DID--AND PRAY THAT IT WORKS IN REAL LIFE!



"IT WAS A DESPERATE MEASURE, BUT I WAS DETERMINED TO GO THROUGH WITH IT! AT THE NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE, JUST BEFORE GOING OUT ON THE FLOOR..."

"THERE--I'M NOT GOING TO WEAR MY GLASSES FOR THE REST OF THE EVENING! I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE A THING, BUT AT LEAST THE MEN MAY SEE ME IN A NEW LIGHT--THE LIGHT OF LOVE, I HOPE!"



"THE WHOLE WORLD SEEMED DISTORTED
INTO A FANTASTIC BLUR! BUT I DIDN'T
CARE, FOR A FEW MINUTES LATER I KNEW
MY PLAN HAD WORKED!"

HELLO --- MAY
I HAVE THIS
DANCE?

WHY, YES --- I'D
LOVE TO!

"I COULDNT
SEE HIM --- BUT
AT LEAST
I COULD
DAYDREAM
ABOUT HIM!
I ENVISIONED
HIM AS
DASHING,
GALLANT,
THRILLINGLY
HANDSOME!

AND
MY
ILLUSION
GREW AS
I HEARD
THE WORDS
I'D
SO OFTEN
DREAMED
OF ---"

"YOU'RE THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL GIRL I'VE
EVER DANCED WITH!
CAN - CAN I HAVE
EVERY DANCE WITH
YOU TONIGHT?"

YES-OH,
YES!

"I WAS SURE THAT MY LUCK HAD AT LAST CHANGED --- THAT
MY ADMIRER WAS SOME REAL-LIFE PRINCE CHARMING ---"

WE PROBABLY MAKE A STRIKING
COUPLE --- I BET EVERYONE
ON THE FLOOR IS
ADMIRING US!



"WHEN THE DANCE WAS OVER, I PROMISED TO
MEET MY PARTNER OUTSIDE --- BUT FIRST
I HAD THE PROBLEM OF FINDING MY WAY
TO THE POWDER ROOM! I NEVER WOULD
HAVE MADE IT BUT FOR A GIRL FRIEND --- NOR
WOULD I HAVE LEARNED SO SOON THAT ---"

LOIS, YOU POOR THING --- JUST
WHY, WHAT...
WAIT TILL YOU SEE THE MAN
WHAT DO
YOU WERE DANCING WITH! OF
YOU
COURSE, YOU WEREN'T WEARING
YOUR
GLASSES!
MEAN?



"IN A FEW MINUTES, I FOUND OUT WHAT SHE
MEANT --- TO MY CHAGRIN!"

HE WAS YOUR PARTNER --- OH, NO! THEN I'VE
MADE AN IDIOT OF
WHO'S NOT A DAY OVER
MYSFSELF - IN FRONT OF
EVERYBODY!



"I FLED,
HUMILIATED,
FROM
THE
SCENE
OF MY
DISASTER-
TEARS OF
SHAME
WELLING
UP IN
MY
EYES!"

HEY---
WAIT!

I'LL NEVER LIVE THIS
DOWN! I'D RATHER
GIVE UP ALL HOPE OF
ROMANCE THAN RISK
GOING THROUGH SOME
THING LIKE THIS
AGAIN!



"BUT MY LONELINESS GREW EVEN MORE INTOLERABLE! PERHAPS IF I COULDN'T HAVE ROMANCE, I COULD AT LEAST HAVE COMPANIONSHIP! THE ANSWER CAME IN AN ARTICLE ABOUT HOW URGENTLY SOCIAL AIDES WERE NEEDED IN THE CITY HOSPITALS --"

THE SICK ARE LONELY, TOO-- THEY WON'T DEMAND GLAMOR GIRLS! THEY'LL WELCOME ME--



"THAT FATEFUL DAY BEGAN SIMPLY ENOUGH--WITH THE NURSE TAKING ME ON A TOUR OF THE WARDS..."

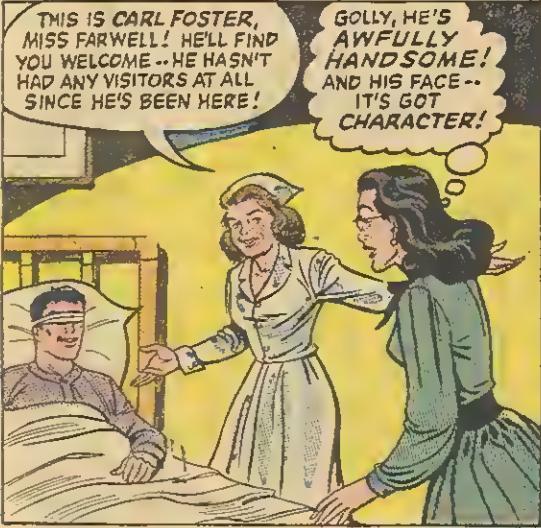
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GO FROM PATIENT TO PATIENT, TALKING TO THEM, CHEERING THEM UP, GIVING THEM THE COMPANIONSHIP THEY CRAVE...

I CRAVE IT, TOO!



THIS IS CARL FOSTER, MISS FARWELL! HE'LL FIND YOU WELCOME--HE HASN'T HAD ANY VISITORS AT ALL SINCE HE'S BEEN HERE!

GOLLY, HE'S AWFULLY HANDSOME! AND HIS FACE-- IT'S GOT CHARACTER!



I CERTAINLY AM GLAD TO HAVE COMPANY, MISS FARWELL--IT'S BEEN LONELY, LYING HERE IN CONSTANT DARKNESS. I'M A SCULPTOR, OR WAS--UNTIL THIS ACCIDENT! BUT THE DAMAGE TO MY EYES ISN'T PERMANENT--THE DOC SAYS I'LL BE COMPLETELY RECOVERED WHEN THE BANDAGES ARE REMOVED IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS! BUT NOW--TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF!



"WE CHATTED PLEASANTLY-- AND SOMEHOW, THE TIME SEEMED TO FLY BY! WE SEEMED DRAWN TO EACH OTHER-- MYSTERIOUSLY-- COMPELLINGLY-- AND THEN, WHEN I REALIZED THAT I'D LONG OVER-STAYED--"

THE VISITING HOUR IS OVER, MR. FOSTER-- BUT I--I'LL COME BACK AGAIN TOMORROW!

WAIT--BEFORE YOU GO, I...I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE! MAY I--TOUCH YOUR FACE, PLEASE?



"SUDDENLY, A FLOOD OF PANIC SWEPT OVER ME-- BLIND, STUPID, UNREASONING PANIC! MY GLASSES-- I HAD TO TAKE THEM OFF--AS IF EVERYTHING DEPENDED ON IT!"

ALL... ALL RIGHT-- JUST A MOMENT!



"AS HIS FINGERS GENTLY, TENDERLY CARESSED MY FACE --"

HIS TOUCH -- IT'S LIKE FIRE SWEEPING OVER ME -- A STRANGE, WONDERFUL MAGIC THAT FILLS ME WITH RAPTURE!

YOUR FEATURES ARE PERFECT! I'M BEGINNING TO FORM A PICTURE OF YOU IN MY MIND -- AND YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL! NOW YOU'VE GOT TO COME BACK TO SEE ME TOMORROW!

"HOW COULD I STAY AWAY FROM HIM? DAY AFTER DAY, I WAS AT HIS SIDE -- AND LOVE GREW WITHIN ME! YES, HE THOUGHT ME BEAUTIFUL -- AND HOW COULD I REVEAL THAT THE STARS IN MY EYES WERE MASKED BY SPECTACLES?"



LOIS, YOU'VE BEEN WONDERFUL ALL THESE WEEKS! BUT I... I'VE BEGUN TO THINK OF YOU AS MORE THAN JUST A FRIEND-- MUCH MORE! YOU'VE COME TO MEAN EVERYTHING TO ME!

HE -- HE'S GOING TO KISS ME! MY GLASSES --!



DARLING, THAT KISS TOLD ME ALL I WANTED TO KNOW! WE'RE FOR EACH OTHER!

BUT... BUT HOW CAN YOU BE SURE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME -- WITHOUT EVER HAVING SEEN ME?



I'VE GOT A SCULPTOR'S TRAINED FINGERS, DARLING -- AND MY FINGERS CAN'T LIE! THEY TELL ME YOU'RE INCOMPARABLY LOVELY -- I'M SURE YOU'RE PERFECT!

GODD GRIEF, IF HE'S SO SURE I'M PERFECT, THEN MY GLASSES ARE SURE TO SPOIL EVERYTHING! HE'S IN LOVE WITH A MENTAL PICTURE OF ME -- AND I CAN'T LIVE UP TO IT!



"THEN CAME THE FATEFUL DAY WHEN CARL'S BANDAGES WERE TO BE REMOVED! I WAS THERE WITHOUT MY GLASSES, OF COURSE!"

"IN A MOMENT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE AS WELL AS YOU EVER DID!"
HURRY -- I CAN SCARCELY WAIT TO SEE LOIS!
THIS IS AWFUL!
I CAN'T SEE HIM -- AND I DONT DARE PUT MY GLASSES ON!"



"THEN, WHILE MY HEART RACED WILDLY IN ANXIETY--"

"NURSE, I CAN'T SEE HER TOO WELL WITHOUT MY GLASSES! DID YOU GET THEM FROM THE OCULIST?"

"YES-- HERE THEY ARE!"

"OH-- HE WEARS GLASSES TOO!"



"WELL--AM... AM I AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU EXPECTED, CARL?
EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL-- EXCEPT FOR ONE SLIGHT FLAW! LET ME HAVE YOUR PURSE, PLEASE!"



"BEWILDERED, I GAVE IT TO HIM! THEN, A GHASTLY MOMENT LATER--"

"YOUR GLASSES, HONEY!
I COULD TELL FROM THE FEEL OF THE SLIGHT MARK ON THE BRIDGE OF YOUR NOSE THAT YOU ALWAYS WORE THEM -- AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO PUT THEM ON!"

"THEN YOU KNEW-- ALL ALONG!"



"FALTERINGLY -- FEARING THAT I WOULD FIND THE LIGHT OF LOVE GONE FROM HIS EYES --"

"WELL, DO... OF COURSE I DO! DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID ENOUGH NOT TO REALIZE THAT YOU'RE THE LOVELIEST, MOST WONDERFUL GIRL IN THE WORLD--AFTER HAVING KNOWN THE SWEETNESS AND GOODNESS OF YOUR NATURE ALL THESE WEEKS? BEAUTY ISN'T JUST SKIN DEEP -- THERE'S AN INNER BEAUTY ALSO -- AND YOU'VE GOT THEM BOTH, SWEETHEART!"



"YES, READER, TAKE IT FROM ME! MEN MAY NOT MAKE PASSES AT GIRLS WHO WEAR GLASSES--BUT THEY CERTAINLY MARRY THEM!"



THE END

The FARAWAY KISS

IN CONNIE'S WISTFUL imagination, it was always the same... and always wonderful! He would take her in his arms and pull her towards him. Not that he'd have to pull very hard, for Connie would be more than willing. Her arms would go around his neck and she would stand tiptoe, to make it easier for him to kiss her. And then, he would embrace her...a long kiss that would grow more intense, fiercer, as it went on! Perhaps her mother would be coming in with the coffee tray and see them. She might cry, "Land's sakes!" But her voice would be a far-away murmur in Connie's ears.

With a sigh, Connie returned to reality. "It won't happen...again!" she reflected sadly. "Even though Walt is coming over this very evening, my prospects are hopeless!" There would be no kiss, she knew, although the longing for it sometimes shone brightly in Walt's eyes! No, there would be endless conversation and he would stammer out some compliments in his shy, halting way. Then mother would serve coffee and he'd leave, looking a bit regretful, as though he'd come for something else and was leaving without it.

"If only he weren't so shy!" Connie was impatient as she thought of Walt's reserved manner, which time and again had kept him from saying the things she yearned to hear. "If he'd only get started, I know I could encourage him!"

"Encourage!" The word lingered with Connie all evening, trailing at the back of her head like an unshakeable tune! "Encourage!" Throughout her conversation with Walt, she found herself eyeing his well-cut features, the firm set of his mouth., "Encourage!"

It was almost coffee-time when the idea leaped into Connie's head.

At first she rejected it, feeling ashamed of herself. "It's so corny!" she thought. "It's been done to death in the movies...but then, if it always works in the movies...why not...for me?"

Reaching for her small, lace handkerchief, Connie dabbed gently at her right eye. She waited an instant and dabbed again. "I...I'm afraid I didn't hear what you were saying," she said to Walt.

"Something in your eye?" he asked, concerned.

"Uh-huh...and it feels enormous! And I'm so clumsy at getting at it...would you mind?"

She was standing very close to him now, on tiptoe, her face turned up to his. Walt, his fingers gentle, cupped her chin lightly and turned her face up still further, into the light. "I'm afraid I don't see anything," he said.

"Strange!" Connie smiled. "But it feels better already." Then she was very close to him and their faces almost touched! She swayed slightly, and then...she was in his arms! "Connie, I...I..."

And the far-away kiss became real as his lips were on hers; gently at first, then fiercely, ecstatically, and Connie returned his ardor with all the fire of her pent-up longing!

From somewhere in the room, there came a far-away murmur.

"Land's sakes!" And then, the sound of a crash, as the coffee tray dropped from mother's hands onto the floor.

Walt held Connie close as he murmured, "I've wanted to do this for so long! I've imagined how it would be...holding you...kissing you..."

Connie's answer was a miracle of ladylike astonishment: "You have?"

THEY SAY THAT CONFESSION IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL-- AND I HAVE FOUND THAT TO BE TRUE!
FOR I COULD NEITHER LOVE NOR BE LOVED UNTIL I ADMITTED TO THE WORLD AND TO
MYSELF THAT I HAD...

False HEART, False FACE!

THERE SHE GOES!
ABOUT TIME
SHE LEFT!

THIS'LL BE A
BETTER TOWN,
HOW THAT THE
SUTTONS
ARE LEAVING!

GOOD RIDDANCE
TO BAD RUBBISH,
I SAY!



THE SUTTONS WERE MOVING...
AGAIN! HOW MANY, MANY TIMES
HAD MY FAMILY LEFT ONE PLACE
FOR ANOTHER, TO THE JEERING
FAREWELLS OF THE NEIGHBORS?
AS IF I CARED!

I, FOR ONE, AM
DELIGHTED
TO BE LEAVING
THIS LITTLE
HAMLET!

SO AM I! IT
WAS TOO, TOO
DULL -- AND
THOSE STUPID
PEOPLE! OH,
HERE'S OUR
TRAIN!

AS THE TRAIN TOOK US AWAY, I
THOUGHT OF THE MANY PLACES
WE HAD LIVED... FOR MONTHS,
FOR WEEKS, BUT NEVER FOR A
LONG TIME! THERE WAS A
GOOD REASON FOR THAT...

THEY ALWAYS HATE US AFTER
THEY LEARN HOW WE'VE TAKEN
THEM IN... BUT THEY'RE THE
STUPID ONES! DAD AND
MOTHER ARE
TOO CLEVER
FOR THEM!

IN A WAY, MY PARENTS WERE ARTISTS
-- SKILLED AT STRIKING AT THE WEAK-
NESSES OF OTHER PEOPLE! I RE-
MEMBER AS FAR BACK AS MY
HIGH SCHOOL DAYS...

JAMES, JUDITH
HAS A RIP IN HER
SWEATER! I CAN'T
SEND IT AHO

WHY NOT? LET HER PUT
A RIBBON BOW OVER
IT AND TELL 'EM IT'S
THE LATEST FROM
PARIS! THESE
YOKELS WILL
BELIEVE IT!



YOU SEE, OUR FAMILY LIVED BY ITS WITS! FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, I WAS TAUGHT TO BE SHARP, QUICK, ADEPT AT TELLING LIES, MAKING GOOD IMPRESSIONS! DADDY USED TO SAY THAT A SUCKER WOULD GIVE YOU THE SHIRT OFF HIS BACK... IF HE THOUGHT YOU DONT WANT IT...

MY DAD'S VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE REFINERY!

MY DAD COULD'VE BEEN PRESIDENT... BUT THEY COULDN'T PAY HIM ENOUGH!

JUDY, THERE'S A RUN IN YOUR STOCKING! THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH THESE REALLY SHEER ONES! OH, WELL, I HAVE DOZENS OF PAIRS AT HOME!

IN ENGLAND, DADDY'S FAMILY IS ALL ROYALTY, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO SEEM SHOW-OFFS!

WHEN WE GOT WHAT WE COULD OUT FOR THE SILLY PEOPLE WHO FALLEN FOR OUR STORIES, WE'D MOVE ON... AS WE WERE DOING NOW...

CLARIDGE, CLARIDGE, NEXT STOP!

ALL RIGHT, GIRLS, LET'S GO! AND LOOK YOUR PRETTIEST FOR OUR NEW... ER... CUSTOMERS!



THOUGH IT TOOK MOST OF OUR SAVINGS, WE'D RENTED ONE OF THE SWANKIEST HOUSES IN TOWN! THAT WAS ALWAYS GOOD PSYCHOLOGY! AND EVEN BEFORE WE MOVED IN--

THINK I'LL SAUNTER DOWN AND INVESTIGATE THE COUNTRY CLUB!

WHILE WE INVESTIGATE THE BETTER SHOPS, AS USUAL!



WITH UNERRING INSTINCT, MOTHER SELECTED THE BEST SHOPS IN TOWN, WHICH WE COMBED CAREFULLY... BUT NOT FOR DRESSES!

THAT WOMAN LOOKS REALLY ULTRA, JUDITH! UPPER BRACKET, FINANCIALLY AND SOCIALLY!

SHE IS, MOTHER...

I ASKED A SALESMAN!



MOTHER WAS AN EXPERT AT CHARMING PEOPLE... EVEN COOL, STAND-OFFISH SOCIETY MATRONS...

I SO HATE TO TROUBLE YOU, BUT I'M SURE YOU WOULD KNOW... WHICH ARE THE BETTER SHOPS IN CLARIDGE? AND DO YOU HAVE A COPY OF THE SOCIAL REGISTER IN YOUR LIBRARY? WHEN ONE IS NEW IN TOWN, IT'S SO DIFFICULT--



REALLY, PEOPLE ARE SO UNSUSPECTING! A FEW WORDS, AND MOTHER WAS IN... BUT SOLID!

I AM MRS. LOUIS BURTON MINTER! HERE IS MY CARD! I SHOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER CALL ANY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON!

HERE WE GO--AGAIN! I SOMETIMES WONDER IF IT'S WORTH IT-- BUT IF MOTHER AND DADDY THINK SO-- IT MUST BE!



WHO COULD KNOW, FROM THE ELEGANT APPEARANCE OF THE EXPENSIVE HOUSE, THAT THE HIGH-TONED SUTTONS WERE DINING ON SANDWICHES? BUT WE WERE PLEASED THAT FIRST DAY...

HOT BAD FOR A FIRST TRY! THEY'RE BEGGING ME TO JOIN THE COUNTRY CLUB... AND I'M PLAYING HARD-TO-GET!

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, DON'T PLAY TOO HARD!..



I WAS USED TO BEING STARED AT... BUT I FELT A SPECIAL INTENSITY IN THE EYES OF ONE MAN... A MOST ATTRACTIVE MAN! AND THE GIRL WITH HIM WAS LOOKING TOO... LOOKING DAGGERS!

WE'LL GO INTO THE SALON, JUDITH-- THERE'S A DANCE GOING ON! I'LL GIVE YOU THE HIGH-SIGN WHEN I WANT YOU TO CULTIVATE ANYONE!



THEN HE CAME TOWARDS ME! STRANGE, WHAT A SUDDEN IMPULSE I HAD TOWARDS HIM... HOW I WANTED HIM TO ASK ME...

EVERYONE ELSE HAS ASKED ME TO DANCE... FLATTERED ME... WHY DOESN'T HE? OH, I HOPE HE DOES!



DADDY LET HIMSELF BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT A DINNER INVITATION AT THE CLUB... OUR FIRST REAL MEAL IN A WEEK!

SMILE PRETTILY, JUDITH... OH, DEAR, I FORGOT TO THERE ARE LOTS OF GET MOTHER'S DIAMONDS EYES ON YOU! OUT OF THE VAULT!



THEY ASKED ME IN DROVES... MAN AFTER MAN! I KEPT WAITING FOR HIM TO ASK ME! WAS HE ENGAGED TO THAT GIRL? I WONDERED...

YOU'RE ADORABLE, MISS SUTTON, AND YOU DANCE LIKE A DREAM!

GOOD! DAD'S TURNING THUMBS DOWN ON THIS OAF!

WE'RE STILL RATHER UNSETTLED HERE, SO WON'T YOU GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME?



SOME OF THE MEN I DANCED WITH WEREN'T TOO IMPOSSIBLE, BUT DAD-KNEW-BEST! I WATCHED FOR HIS SIGN CAREFULLY...

WILL YOU PERMIT ME TO CALL ON YOU, MISS SUTTON?

WE'RE STILL RATHER UNSETTLED HERE, SO

WON'T YOU GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME?



WHEN HE DID, I SLIPPED WORDLESSLY INTO HIS ARMS, KNOWING THAT THINGS WERE HAPPENING AT LAST! AND DAD APPROVED!

MY NAME'S HANK JAMISON, MISS SUTTON! I HEAR YOU JUST MOVED TO CLARIDGE...

WHY DON'T YOU CALL ME JUDITH... HANK?



IT WAS MANY HOURS AFTER THE DANCE THAT DAD EXPLAINED THE SUTTON STRATEGY! THIS TIME, HE WAS AFTER REALLY BIG GAME!

MONEY... LOTS OF MONEY! BY PUTTING UP A BIG FRONT, WE CAN ATTRACT A FORTUNE! I EXPLAINED THAT I'M INVESTING IN A VERY SOUND ENTERPRISE... AND WHEN I'VE COLLECTED ENOUGH...

WE NEEDN'T BE HERE TO EXPLAIN!



IT WAS NO HARDSHIP TO CULTIVATE HANK... HE WAS TERRIFIC! A COMBINATION OF RUGGED MASCULINITY AND GENTLE SENTIMENT THAT I FOUND EXCITING...

I'VE SEEN MOONLIGHT DO THINGS FOR GIRLS, BUT YOU MAKE THE MOONLIGHT LOVELIER, JUDITH!



THAT PROTEST WAS WRONG FROM ME! TEARS CAME TO MY EYES AT THE IDEA OF NEVER SEEING HIM AGAIN... AND MY ARMS ACHED WITH A LONGING HE UNDERSTOOD SO WELL...

JUDITH, LET ME PUT MY ARMS AROUND YOU... WHY, YOU'RE SUCH A LITTLE GIRL!



NOW PUT YOUR ARMS AROUND ME... OR I'LL THINK YOU DON'T WANT ME TO...



I OFTEN WONDERED ABOUT THE MORAL ASPECT OF OUR LIVES, BUT ALWAYS A VOICE WITHIN ME SAID: "HOW CAN YOU QUESTION YOUR OWN PARENTS?" BESIDES, THIS TIME MY HEAD WAS TOO FULL OF DREAMY VISIONS... HE WAS NICE... HANK JAMISON...

YOU, JUDITH, WILL SEE A GOOD DEAL OF THE YOUNG MEN WHOSE CREDIT I'VE INVESTIGATED! JAMISON, FOR INSTANCE... HE'S WEALTHY!



THAT'S ALL THEY EVER THINK ABOUT-- MONEY, MONEY, MONEY! I WONDER WHERE IT'S ALL GOING TO END!

OOD, HOW HE PUT INTO WORDS THE STRUGGLE THAT WAS TAKING PLACE IN MY OWN HEART...

...THAT YOU'D RATHER YOU NEVER SAW ME AGAIN!

HANK! NO! THAT'S NOT SO!



THIS WAS ONE TIME I DIDN'T HAVE TO ACT AS THOUGH I WERE IN LOVE... I COULDN'T HAVE BEHAVED OTHERWISE! SEEING HANK BECAME AS NATURAL AS BREATHING...

MISS ME, HONEY? IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS SINCE I SAW YOU LAST!

WHAT DO YOU THINK? IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS, FOUR HOURS, AND EIGHTEEN MINUTES!

LIKE GUILELESS KIDS, WE HELD HANDS IN PUBLIC, NOT CARING WHAT OTHERS THOUGHT! AND I MADE SUCH A DISCOVERY!

HANK, BEING IN LOVE IS LIKE HAVING CHRISTMAS ALL THE TIME!

THAT'S THE NICEST THING ANY GIRL EVER SAID TO ME, BUT THEN--

--YOU'RE THE NICEST GIRL!

HANK! IT'S JUST COME TO ME THAT WE'RE NOT ALONE! THERE SEEM TO BE OTHER PEOPLE IN THIS PLACE!

THAT LITTLE JOKE IN THE RESTAURANT HAD MORE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS, AS I LEARNED THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS I WAS LEAVING MY HOUSE...

SUDOOENLY, I REMEMBERED HER... THE DARK GIRL WHO'D BEEN LOOKING DAGGERS AT ME IN THE COUNTRY CLUB THAT NIGHT... THE GIRL WHO'D BEEN... WITH HANK!

OH, I'M VERY SORRY! I ALMOST RAN INTO YOU!

WELL, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER THAN MISSING YOU! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU, MISS SUTTON!

YOU... YOU'RE MOLLY PRESTON, AREN'T YOU?

YES! I USED TO THINK OF MYSELF AS HANK JAMISON'S GIRL!



UP UNTIL THAT MOMENT, I'D BEEN IN A ROMANTIC CLOUD WITH HANK... JUST THE TWO OF US... ALONE! BUT THERE WERE OTHER PEOPLE... THERE WAS MOLLY PRESTON... WHO HATED ME!

WHY DID A WAVE OF GUILT ALMOST DROWN MY ANSWER AND PANIC-RIGID FINGERS SEEK TO CRUSH MY HEART AS I ANSWERED? I KNEW I WAS TELLING THE TRUTH... MEANING IT!

WHO ARE YOU? WHERE DO YOU COME FROM, WITH YOUR PRETENSIONS TO FAMILY AND WEALTH AND SOCIAL BACKGROUND? I'VE GOT A STRANGE IDEA THAT YOU DON'T LOVE HANK AT ALL! YOU LOVE... HIS MONEY!

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK, MISS PRESTON... IT'S HANK I LOVE! I DO LOVE HIM!



THE FULL IMPACT OF WHAT I WAS SAYING... WHAT I WAS FEELING... WAS LIKE A STUNNING BLOW! THERE HAD BEEN SO MANY LIES IN MY LIFE THAT THE TRUTH WAS STRANGE TO ME...

YES... FUNNY... I LOVE HIM! AND IT'S FUNNIER THAT I SHOULD HAVE LEARNED IT SO COMpletely FROM YOU!

NO ONE EVER HEARD OF THE SUTTONS IN CLARIDGE! HOW DO WE KNOW YOU'RE THE SAME FAMILY THAT'S LISTED IN "WHO'S WHO"? I'M GOING TO FIND OUT!

SHE WALKED AWAY, A JEALOUS, DEFEATED WOMAN, LEAVING ME IN TRIUMPHANT POSSESSION OF MY LOVE! THEN CAME THE LIGHTNING-STREAK REALIZATION THAT HORRIFIED ME!

THE FAMILY... I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO LOVE HANK... I'M SUPPOSED TO LEAD HIM TO THE SLAUGHTER, LIKE AN INNOCENT LAMB... AND I'M THE SLAUGHTERER... AND DAD...

I HAD TO STOP THIS THING BEFORE IT RUINED HANK... AND OUR CHANCE FOR HAPPINESS TOGETHER! I HAD TO MAKE DAD SEE WHAT IT MEANT TO ME!

DAD, PLEASE, I KNOW IT SOUNDS WILD AND CRAZY, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE UP YOUR SCHEME! DON'T TAKE MONEY FROM THESE PEOPLE... MAKE EXCUSES, PLEASE...

GREAT GUNS, JUDITH, WHAT ARE YOU ORNELLING ABOUT? YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE!

IT WAS ONE OF THE HARDEST THINGS I EVER HAD TO DO... FIGHT MY FATHER! BUT I HAD TO...

DAD, I'M IN LOVE! OH, IS THAT ALL? I LOVE HANK JAMISON!

OH, IS THAT ALL? I THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING SERIOUS!

A CHILL SHOOK ME AS I HEARD HIM SPEAK... MY OWN FATHER!

SO YOU'RE IN LOVE... OR THINK YOU ARE! THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS LOVE, JUDITH... THERE'S ONLY POWER, POSITION... MONEY! YOU'LL FALL IN AND OUT OF "LOVE" MANY TIMES, MY DEAR, WITH MANY MEN... LONG AFTER WE'VE SPENT MR. JAMISON'S MONEY!

DON'T FEEL SORRY FOR OUR "VICTIMS" ... THEY'RE BORN TO BE FOOLED! IF NOT BY US... THEN BY SOMEONE ELSE! BEING SOFT IS BEING STUPID, JUDITH! BESIDES, EVEN IF I WISHED IT, I COULDN'T ABANDON MY PLAN!!

YOU SEE...

PLEADING WAS USELESS, I KNEW! REASON, APPEAL TO HIS AFFECTION... ALL A WASTE OF TIME! FOR I SAW MY FATHER'S FACE, AS HE TOUCHED A STEEL BOX ON HIS DESK...

...I ALREADY HAVE HIS MONEY... AMONG OTHERS!

YOU... YOU STOLE HANK'S MONEY!



I SAT NUMB AND FROZEN, FOR MANY HOURS AFTER THAT... UNTIL THE RING OF THE PHONE AROUSED ME! HOW ELATED I WOULD HAVE BEEN AT THE SOUND OF HIS VOICE... YESTERDAY! BUT NOW...

NO... NO, I CAN'T SEE YOU TONIGHT, DARLING... NO, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG... I... I HAVE A SLIGHT HEADACHE... PLEASE DON'T COME OVER, HANK!



WHY HAD I NOT WANTED TO SEE HIM? I LOVED HANK, WANTED TO SPEND ALL MY LIFE WITH HIM... THEN WHY COULDN'T I BEAR TO FACE HIM?

I'M GUILTY... I'VE DONE THIS TERRIBLE THING TO HIM! I COULD HAVE STOPPED IT... A LONG TIME AGO... HE MIGHT NEVER HAVE KNOWN...



I NEVER WENT TO BED THAT NIGHT! FOR HOURS I FOUGHT... TORN BETWEEN LOVE FOR HANK, LOYALTY TO MY FATHER... AND SOMETHING ELSE... SOMETHING THAT HAD BEEN GNAWING AT MY CONSCIENCE FOR YEARS... AND NOW... I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO!

THEY'LL THINK THAT I'M INSANE... BUT I'VE GOT TO DO IT... NOT ONLY FOR HANK, BUT FOR MYSELF! IN EITHER CASE, I LOSE THE MAN I LOVE!



YES, EITHER WAY I WOULD LOSE HANK—BECAUSE OF FATHER'S DISHONESTY... MY DISHONESTY... THE THEFT OF THE MONEY... HIS DISCOVERY OF WHAT I REALLY WAS! BUT I HAD TO DO WHAT I DID!

IT'S NO USE, JUDITH, SAVE YOUR BREATH! WE'RE LEAVING CLARIDGE TODAY... WITH THE MONEY!

NO, FATHER! YOU'RE MISTAKEN! I... KNOW!



THE POLICE CAME FOR MY FATHER EARLY THAT MORNING, AND PLACED HIM UNDER ARREST...

YOU... YOU CAN'T! HE'S DONE NOTHING... THERE'S A MISTAKE!

YOU CAN'T STOP THEM, MOTHER... I'M SORRY! YOU SEE... I CALLED THE POLICE!



SHE CALLED ME AN UNNATURAL CHILD... MAD... SELFISH... SHE STORMED AND WEPT... AND I SAT THERE, ONLY HALF-HEARING HER... LISTENING TO THE BEATING OF MY HEART...

YOUR OWN FATHER! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?

YES, MOTHER, BELIEVE ME! I ONLY KNOW THAT THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY TO STOP HIM! WE'VE BEEN LIVING A LIE FOR YEARS-- ALL OF US! BUT IT HAD TO STOP SOMETIME... WE'VE GOT TO BE HONEST PEOPLE AGAIN!



THEY SAY IT WAS A JUICY SCANDAL IN CLARIDGE... A DAUGHTER WHO BETRAYED HER FATHER! THEY TELL ME REPORTERS CAME FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY... THE WORLD... TO SEE THIS PHENOMENON! I WAS CHIEF WITNESS AGAINST MY OWN FATHER!



THE FACTS WERE SIMPLE ENOUGH? I RECITED THEM BY ROTE, MONOTONOUSLY! BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE TO BE SAID, THAT FORCED ITS WAY OUT INTO THE OPEN!

DON'T THINK I DO NOT LOVE MY FATHER...I DO! BUT HE HAS A CARELESS WAY WITH HIS LIFE...WITH THE LIVES OF OTHERS! AND TO TAMPER WITH REAL FEELINGS, REAL EMOTIONS, THAT'S DANGEROUS! MORE DANGEROUS THAN STEALING!

IT WAS AN OPEN AND SHUT CASE, OF COURSE! BUT SINCE MY FATHER HAD NOT GOTTEN AWAY WITH THE MONEY AND HAD MADE HIS CONFESSION FREELY, THE COURT WAS LENIENT...

YOU WILL BE FINED TO THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000, AND SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR'S IMPRISONMENT...THAT SENTENCE TO BE SUSPENDED PENDING YOUR GOOD BEHAVIOR AND RESTITUTION OF THE FUNDS IN QUESTION!

THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR!



IF I COULD HAVE DIED THEN, I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED IT! MY ONLY CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL WAS TO BE ALONE, TO WORK OUT MY OWN SALVATION! BUT AS I TRIED TO LEAVE...

STOP! DON'T GO, MISS SUTTON!

IREXIT

WHAT... WHAT DO YOU WANT?

THE SATISFACTION OF TELLING YOU WHAT I THINK OF YOU! OF TELLING YOU WHAT WE ALL THINK OF YOU... A CHEAP CHEATING LIAR, A SOCIAL CLIMBER, A CRIMINAL WHO'S BEEN EXPOSED, A...

HOW COULD I DENY HER WORDS? MEAN AND VINDICTIVE AS SHE WAS, MOLLY PRESTON WAS RIGHT! I WAS LOST AND DESOLATE AS I LISTENED... UNTIL...

THAT'S NOT WHAT WE ALL THINK OF HER, MOLLY! IT'S NOT WHAT I THINK OF JUDITH SUTTON! MAYBE SHE WAS ALL THE THINGS YOU'VE CALLED HER...

HANK, I...



IT'S PEOPLE LIKE YOU, MOLLY, THAT DON'T GIVE OTHERS A CHANCE! YOU'D WANT HER TO GO ON BEING THE THINGS YOU SAY, GIVING YOU REASON TO HATE HER! BUT SHE'S NOT LIKE THAT... AND IT WILL TAKE BELIEF AND LOVE TO HELP HER! I'VE GOT THOSE!



IT WAS MOLLY PRESTON WHO FIRST MADE ME AWARE THAT I REALLY LOVED HANK... AND MOLLY PRESTON WHO GAVE HIM BACK TO ME AFTER I THOUGHT I HAD LOST HIM...



...BUT IT WAS MY OWN LOVE FOR HIM THAT PROMISED US THAT WE WOULD BE TOGETHER... IN LOVE... ALWAYS!

THE END

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The Little White
Cloud That Cried
Candy
Angeline
Beauty
Hallelujah
Be My Little Companion

OR 18 HILL BILLY HITS

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My Good Lord
Bring Me Kids
You
Gonna Need
More
Man
I'm A Man
Daddy, We're Really
Hey, Good Lookin'
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Bustin' Me Time
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Way
Cross Heart
Mam And Dadd's
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Down The Southern
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OR 18 MOST LOVED HYMNS

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Onward Christian
Soldiers
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Lord
In the Garden
Faith of Our Fathers
This Little Light
Leaving On the Ev-
erlasting Arms
Since Jesus Came
Into My Heart



Trust in Me
Jesus, I'm So Near
the Cross
Shepherd Kindly
Dear Lord and Father
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